



# Wetlands

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement | 3.1

Construction of a transportation facility in the Mountain View Corridor (MVC) will impact wetlands and associated plants and animals in the area. Generally, wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas that have connection to a waterway. Wetlands are important because they provide vital habitats for plants and animals, support the food chain, help to minimize flooding and clean our water.

Concern about the loss of wetlands has been expressed by the public and government agencies. Wetlands are protected by federal law through the Clean Water Act of 1972 and regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Wetlands cannot be filled without a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

### Approach to Wetlands

In order to understand the relative value of the various wetlands in the project study area, the project team, in consultation with state and federal agencies, used a method based on the hydrogeomorphic (HGM) approach to determine the quality of wetlands in the MVC. Specific purposes of this assessment included: 1) providing a scientifically defensible method to determine wetland function, 2) ranking wetlands by functionality, 3) providing information for land-use planning, and 4) helping identify the least environmentally damaging transportation solution. This assessment model was specifically developed to consider local conditions found within the Great Basin, particularly near the Great Salt Lake.

### The Impacts

Impacts to wetlands can be primary or secondary. Primary impacts, those resulting in the complete loss of wetland area, would occur within the footprint for each alternative. Secondary impacts are those that result in a loss of wetland function if an alternative is built near the wetland. Secondary impacts are estimated to occur from the edge of the right-of-way out to 300 feet. For instance, building a roadway near a wetland could impact the wildlife habitat function of that wetland.

Certain wetland types receive special consideration because they are rare or irreplaceable. In Salt Lake County, impacts to playas are of particular importance because U.S. agencies have attempted to recreate playa hydrology and soil chemistry with only limited success. Likewise, Utah County contains small areas of peat (Peteetneet) soil, which is rare and takes many years to form. The accompanying charts show impacts to playa for the Salt Lake County alternatives and impacts to Peteetneet soil for the Utah County alternatives.

#### Salt Lake County

|                           | 5800 West | 7200 West |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Wetlands Impacted (Acres) |           |           |
| Playa                     | 14.0      | 24.2      |
| Total                     | 27.2      | 29.8      |

#### Utah County

|                           | Southern Freeway | 2100 North Freeway | Arterials |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Wetlands Impacted (Acres) |                  |                    |           |
| Primary                   | 78.3             | 14.7               | 52.9      |
| Peteetneet                | 12.4             | 0                  | 5.5       |

Please see Chapter 15 of the Draft EIS for more detailed information.

### FAQs

#### Will UDOT compensate for wetland impacts?

Yes, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) will compensate for wetland impacts by creating new wetlands, restoring wetlands in other areas, and enhancing or preserving existing wetlands. Once an alternative has been selected, UDOT will perform a more detailed analysis to determine how exactly to compensate for the loss of wetlands. UDOT will also work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the federal permitting process.

#### Were design changes made to avoid wetland impacts?

Yes. First, all alignments were laid out attempting to avoid as many wetlands as possible. Then, the areas of impact were scrutinized to determine if additional design changes could be made to further reduce wetland impacts.

### Public Hearings

Wednesday, November 14  
Hunter High School  
West Valley City: 4 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, November 15  
Willow Creek Middle School  
Lehi: 4 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 17  
Copper Hills High School  
West Jordan: 2 - 6 p.m.

CLICK. READ. COMMENT. ►►

#### Comment Period

Oct. 17 - Jan. 24, 2008

#### Mail

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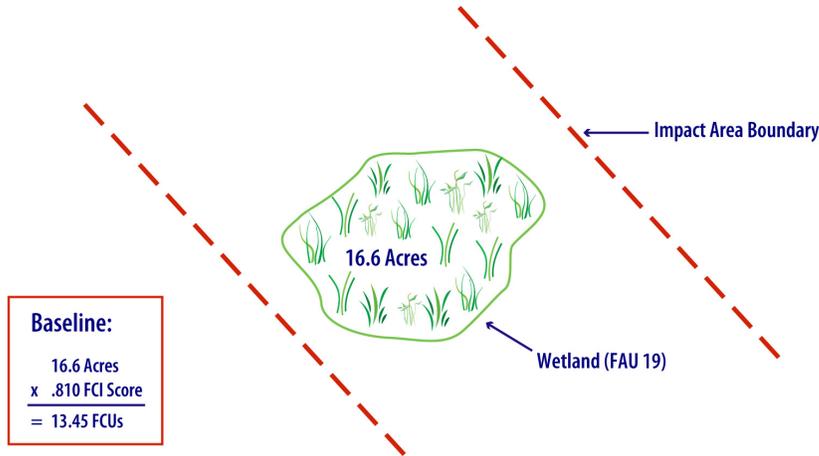
udot.utah.gov/mountainview

#### Phone

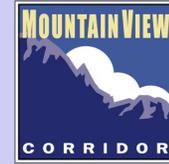
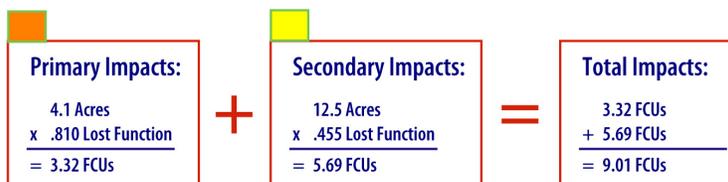
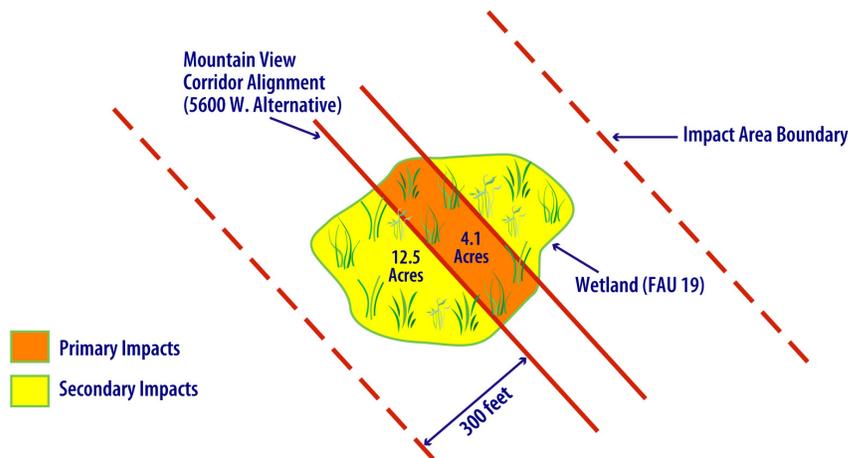
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11/01/2007

## Assessing Baseline Functional Capacity Units (FCUs)



## Assessing Wetland Impacts Using Functional Capacity Units (FCUs)



ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

**LEGEND:**



NOT TO SCALE

Figure 15-22

Wetland  
Calculation  
Example

DRAFT - July 2007

Please see Chapter 15 of the Draft EIS for more detailed information.

CLICK. READ. COMMENT. >>>

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